



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/729,932

12/09/2003

Hui Chun Hsu

MR2349-974

2437

46103

7590

02/12/2007

HDSL

4331 STEVENS BATTLE LANE

FAIRFAX, VA 22033

EXAMINER

DUONG, THO V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3744

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

02/12/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/729,932	Applicant(s) HSU, HUL CHUN	
	Examiner Tho v. Duong	Art Unit 3743	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,4-6 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,7,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3744

DETAILED ACTION

In view of the granted withdrawn abandonment 12/28/06, the application is now revived and a new period for reply is set. Due to the Change of Correspondence address on August 17, 2005, the re-mailing of the Office Action 9/2/05 is necessary.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 2,4-6 and 8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 8/17/2005.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3,7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yumiko et al. (JP 406106269A). Yumiko discloses (figures 1-10) a circular tubular heat pipe having a sealed structure closing a distal opening thereof, the seal structure comprises a concave wall portion formed on a region of the heat pipe adjacent to the distal opening; an arc-pressed recess portion formed on the concave wall portion to have a overlapping wall (figure 4); a curled

Art Unit: 3744

volume reduced portion (figure 3) formed on the pressed recess portion; and a sealed welding portion formed on the volume reduced portion and the pressed recess portion (supersonic wave welding). Regarding claims 9-10, the methods of forming the device "is spot welded" and "is ultrasonically welded" are not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). In this instant case, the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from the heat pipe of Yumiko, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different welding.

Claims 1,3,7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tadao et al. (JP 361213599A). Tadao discloses (figures 5-6) a circular tubular heat pipe having a sealed structure closing a distal opening thereof, the seal structure comprises a concave wall portion formed on a region of the heat pipe adjacent to the distal opening; the concave wall has an arc-pressed recess portion overlapping wall (a second wall collapsed on the concave wall); a curled volume reduced portion (figure 6) formed on the pressed recess portion (overlapped wall region); and a sealed welding portion formed on the volume reduced portion, which is part of the pressed recess portion. Regarding claims 9-10, the methods of forming the device "is spot welded" and "is ultrasonically welded" are not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process,

Art Unit: 3744

determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). In this instant case, the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from the heat pipe of Yumiko, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different welding.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Genshiro (JP 363061890A) discloses a heat pipe is sealed by welding.

Furukawa Electric Co LTD (JP 06109384A) discloses a seal structure heat pipe seal portion pipe press weld pipe wall.

Takeshi (JP 410290091A) discloses working method for sealing part in heat pipe.

Masataka et al. (JP 362131200A) discloses a method of sealing heat pipe end.

Ishida et al. (US 6,508,302) discloses a heat pipe and method for process the heat pipe.

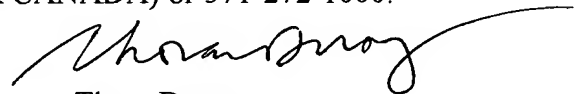
Ikedo et al. (US 2001/0022219A1) discloses a plate type heat pipe and mounting structure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho v. Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-4793. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (first Friday off).

Art Unit: 3744

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tyler J. Cheryl can be reached on 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tho v Duong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3744



TD
January 22, 2007